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1615 B

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Cefali, Eugenio

Serial No.:

08/962,421

Filing Date:

31 October 1997

Docket Number:

50454-56103USCIP3

Group Art Unit:

1615

Examiner:

James M. Spear

Title:

INTERMEDIATE RELEASE NICOTINIC ACID COMPOSITIONS FOR

TREATING HYPERLIPIDEMIA WHICH EXHIBIT AN IN VIVO STAIR-

STEPPED ABSORPTION CURVE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated 19 March 2004. The Examiner rejected pending claims 1 through 4 for statutory double patenting of the "same invention" under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

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